

To: Ostrander, David[Ostrander.David@epa.gov]
From: Harrison, Melissa
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Subject: TPS

River opening/Sediment update:

- Thanks for joining the call today. I am also joined by La Plata Sheriff Shaun Smith who will be available to take questions on.
- EPA sediment samples collected in the Animas River from Bakers Bridge to north of Durango have been validated.
- EPA has done a review of the data which included a comparison to background to determine if the metal concentrations are consistent with pre-incident levels.
- Metal results that exceeded pre-incident levels were subsequently compared to risk-based screening levels.
- These preliminary results indicate that minor exceedances of background concentrations were observed for antimony, lead, silver, thallium. However, comparison to risk-based screening values found these exceedances to below risk screening levels.
- The review and interpretation of these data was a collaborative effort that included state and local members of the unified command.
- Sediment data can be viewed at: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>
- Over the next several days, EPA sampling crews will be in the river collecting samples as part of the process to collect additional data and information about sediments in the river and to inform future decisions about lifting the advisory related to washing skin after contact with river water. These crews will be wearing waders, gloves and other equipment to assure the quality of the samples collected.

Additional updates:

- In addition to the sediment data from Colorado, we also released updated water quality results for New Mexico including August 9 and August 10. These can also be found on our website. I'll now turn it over to Chris Ruhl from Region 6 to give more details on this data and the response efforts in New Mexico.

